



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

Charles M. Palmer
Director

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1441

DATE: October 27, 2014

TO: Iowa Medicaid Hospitals Providing Swing Bed Care

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Clarification of Swing Bed Requirements

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

[Informational Letter No.1245](#)¹ originally communicated the requirement of a prior authorization (PA) for all swing bed admissions and continued stays effective for dates of service on or after July 1, 2013. Additional updates were announced in [Informational Letter No. 1269](#)² and [Informational Letter No. 1278](#)³.

While the swing-bed PA requirement remains in effect, a PA is not needed for swing-bed admissions/stays of 14 days or less. If swing-bed stays greater than 14 days are billed to the IME and there is no approved PA on file, payment on the claim will be reduced to pay only the allowed 14 days.

If it is anticipated that the member may be in a swing bed for more than 14 days, the [Level of Care Certification for Swing Bed Facility](#)⁴ form and [Attachment A](#)⁵, (Swing Bed Facility for Alternative Placement) must be faxed to the IME Medical Services Unit at (515) 725-0420, for review and approval. Please note that it is important to request the PA before discharge as there will be no retrospective approvals.

The Iowa Wellness Plan offers up to 120 days annually of facility based skilled nursing services per year for members that meet the level of care determination. This limitation of skilled nursing services also applies to swing bed and would be included in the per year count

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<http://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1245%20Prior%20Authorization%20Required%20for%20Swing%20Bed%20Admission%20and%20Continued%20Stay.pdf>

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<https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1269%20Update%20to%20PA%20Required%20for%20Swing%20Bed%20Admission%20and%20Continued%20Stay.pdf>

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<http://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1278%20Additional%20Update%20to%20PA%20Required%20for%20Swing%20Bed%20Admission%20and%20Continued%20Stay.pdf>

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<http://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/swing%20bed%20cert%20470%205156%205%2029%202013.pdf>

5

<http://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/470-5156%20Attachment%20A.2013.pdf>

for the 120 days. Additional information on skilled nursing services available under the Iowa Wellness Plan can be found in [Informational Letter No. 1375](#)⁶.

The admitting facility is required to submit a [Case Activity Report \(CAR\)](#)⁷ which should be faxed to the Centralized Eligibility Unit at (515) 564-4040.

If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909, locally in Des Moines at 515-256-4609 or by email at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us.

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<http://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1375%20Skilled%20Nursing%20Services%20Available%20Under%20the%20Iowa%20Wellness%20Plan.pdf>

⁷ <http://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/Case%20Activity%20Report.pdf>